

PROJECT NA' MAS FITME

What is Guam EHDI-Na' Mas Fitme?

This project aims to work towards supporting the development of a statewide program and system of care that ensures identification of deaf or hard of hearing children through newborn and infant hearing screening. And receive an evaluation, diagnosis, and appropriate intervention that optimizes their language, literacy, and social-emotional development.



PROGRAM GOALS

- ① Lead efforts to engage and coordinate all stakeholders in the state/territory EHDI system to ensure that children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) are identified, diagnosed, and receive appropriate early intervention services.
- ② Engage, educate, and train health professionals and service providers in the EHDI system.
- ③ Strengthen family engagement, partnership, and leadership for children and adults who are DHH within the EHDI programs and systems.

Why is it important to identify hearing loss in children so early?

Children identified with a hearing loss earlier can receive early intervention services to support better language and cognitive development outcomes. One of the targets that our system aims for is the 1-3-6 benchmark.

1-3-6 Benchmark

- ① screening of all infants born on Guam by 1 month
- ② complete a Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation (DAE) for infants who refer at follow-up screening by 3 months
- ③ enrollment in early intervention services for infants with a hearing loss by 6 months



What happens if a newborn does not pass their hearing screening?

Babies who do not pass their initial hearing screening have a re-screen by the Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS). If they do not pass this second screening, they see an audiologist for a formal Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation (DAE).

Guam EHDI has a comprehensive tracking and surveillance system known as Guam ChildLink-EHDI. Guam ChildLink-EHDI ensures an infant diagnosed with a hearing loss receives appropriate follow-up services.

What can health care providers do to help in identifying children with hearing loss?

You can help by asking parents/caregivers:

- if the baby passed the initial hearing screening
- if the baby did not pass the initial hearing screening, did they receive and pass the follow-up hearing screening
- if the baby did not pass the second hearing screening, did baby see an audiologist for a Diagnostic Audiological Evaluation (DAE)
- if they have any concerns about their child's hearing, speech and or language development at each well-baby check-up
- if the infant has high-risk factors for hearing loss at the well-baby check-up



Did you know?

- 3 out of every 1000 children in the United States are born with a hearing loss in one or both ears.
- 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents.
- 5 out of 6 children experience ear infection (otitis media) by the time they are three years old.
- The Guam EHDI Project has facilitated universal newborn hearing screening on Guam since 2003?
- Public Law 27-150, "The Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Act," was passed in December 2004.
- Guam EHDI ensures that all babies born on Guam receive a hearing screening before leaving their birthing facility.
- Universal hearing screening is part of the standard of care at Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA), Sagua Mañagu Birthing Center (SMBC), and the U.S. Naval Hospital.

How can I learn more about Guam EHDI Project Fitme?



Please visit our website:
www.guamehdi.org



Contact us at **735-2466** for brochures and posters to share with families!



You can also find us on Facebook: Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention



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